

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Rejection mailed April 30, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Before the present Amendment, Claims 10-54 were pending, with Claims 1 and 32 being in independent form. In the present amendment, a new drawing has been added (pursuant to the Examiner's requirement in the Final Rejection), and the specification has been minimally amended to refer to the new drawing. Independent Claims 10 and 32 have been amended to clarify the nature of the present invention (pursuant to the Examiner's comments in the Final Rejection), dependent Claim 33 has been cancelled without prejudice, dependent Claim 54 has been rewritten in independent form (pursuant to the Examiner's comments in the Final Rejection), and dependent Claim 55 has been added (reciting the limitations of Claim 54 before it was rewritten). After entry of the present Amendment, Claims 10-32 and 34-55 will be pending, with Claims 10, 32, and 54 being in independent form.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections in the April 30, 2004 Final Rejection are requested on the basis of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the April 30, 2004 Final Rejection, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) stating that they did not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner required that the feature "...said plural actuator means comprises at least one spring and at least one hydraulic cylinder" in Claim 13 be shown in the drawings or canceled from the claims. In response, applicant has submitted one new drawing, FIG. 5, which shows the actuator means in the form of both springs 9 between bearing blocks 4 and hydraulic cylinders 19 between mounts 5. No new matter is contained in this drawing: support for the new drawing may be found at least in originally filed Claims 1, 3, and 5, as well as at lines 24-31 on page 5 in the originally filed specification. Therefore, since the feature pointed out by the Examiner is now shown in new FIG. 5, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

In the April 30, 2004 Final Rejection, the Examiner rejected independent Claims 10 and 32, as well as Claims 12, 14, 16, 26, 33-36, 50 and 51 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Lamon et al.* (US 4,266,475; hereinafter *Lamon*). Dependent Claims 11, 13, 15, 17-

25, 27-31, 37-43, 46-48, 52, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Lamon*. In the alternative, dependent Claims 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 37-43, 46-48, 52, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Lamon* in view of *Karr et al.* (US 4,501,197; hereinafter *Karr*).

However, in the April 30, 2004 Final Rejection, the Examiner also noted that applicant "argue[d] limitations not positively recited in the claims" in the previous February 6, 2004 Amendment. Specifically, the Examiner pointed out that "the claims do not positively recite any structure as "individually adapted" actuator means". In response, applicant has amended independent Claims 10 and 32 to recite that the actuator means are "individually adapted to substantially relieve the specific linear loading ... caused by the weight of the rolls, bearing blocks, mounts, and any other actuator means located above the actuator means in said vertical stack". Since the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest an actuator means "individually adapted to substantially relieve the specific linear loading" caused by the weight above it, amended independent Claims 10 and 32 are patentable over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of amended independent Claims 10 and 32 are respectfully requested. At least through their dependence on amended independent Claims 10 and 32, which are believed to be in condition for allowance, dependent Claims 11-31 and 34-53 are also believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of their rejection is respectfully requested.

In the April 30, 2004 Final Rejection, the Examiner noted that dependent Claim 54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Claim 54 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowance of rewritten Claim 54 is respectfully requested.

Lastly, dependent Claim 55 has been added in the present Amendment. As it is a duplicate of Claim 54 before Claim 54 was rewritten, it contains no new matter and does not raise any new issues. At least through its dependence on amended independent Claim 32, which is

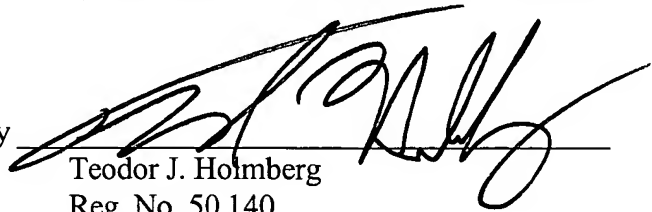
believed to be in condition for allowance, newly added dependent Claim 55 is also believed to be in condition for allowance, and its allowance is respectfully requested.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and arguments, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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